



Susan McKenzie

Educational Leader

OBJECTIVE

To provide excellent and experienced educational leadership in Alaska as Commissioner for Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, representing all stakeholders to achieve the mission of an excellent education for every student every day.

EDUCATION

B.S. Elementary Education, Basic Teacher Certificate, 1983:

Western Oregon University; Monmouth, Oregon

MSE in Language and Literacy; Reading Endorsement, 2005:

University of Alaska; Fairbanks, Alaska

Special Education Endorsement, 2008:

Pacific University; Forest Grove, Oregon

Initial Administrator's License, 2009:

Portland State University; Portland, Oregon

Continuing Administrator's License, 2015:

Concordia University; Chicago, Illinois

EXPERIENCE

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development: 2021-Present

Director of Innovation and Education Excellence

Leadership Highlights:

- *Wrote and implemented Alaska's Strategic Reading Plan to address the AK Education Challenge, Priority #1*
- *Successfully planned the Science of Reading Symposium for 1000 participants*
- *Led Alaska Reads Act Regulations and Implementation*
- *Led Strategic Planning for the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence*

Gaston School District: 2013-2021

School District Superintendent and Special Education Director (2014-2021)

Junior/Senior High School Principal (2013-2014)

Leadership Highlights:

- *Passed a 14-million-dollar bond measure and wrote a two-million-dollar grant to build a new school*
- *Wrote and received a Seismic Rehabilitation Grant of two million dollars and completed renovations on the elementary school*
- *Awarded a \$500,000 CTE Revitalization Grant to build a new CTE building*
- *Started a district-sponsored pre-school for all students through grants and budget prioritization*
- *Implemented a “grow your own” educator pipeline with community members to stabilize the workforce*
- *Reset and updated all district policies through a year-long initiative with the board, including increased access for stakeholders through an on-line format*

Copper River School District: 2010-2013

Glennallen K-12 Principal

Leadership Highlights:

- *Restructured grade levels to address instructional needs*
- *Led Title 1 reading RTI Framework at the elementary school and reorganized staff to support Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the framework*
- *Prioritized attendance at community events with diverse stakeholders to build trusting relationships and garner input*

Gaston School District: 2004-2010

Elementary Level Special Education Teacher, (2005-2010)

Teaching/leadership Highlights:

- *Trained and supervised instructional assistants*
- *Implemented evidence-based reading interventions for special education and classroom use*
- *Collaborated with outside agencies in developing appropriate individual education plans*

Title 1 Reading Specialist (2004-2005)

Teaching/leadership Highlights:

- *Restructured informal assessment and data keeping procedures in using data to drive instruction*
- *Wrote the Title 1 schoolwide plan*
- *Collaborated with staff in providing consistent expectations and approaches for reading school-wide*

North Slope Borough School District: 2000-2004

Fourth Grade Teacher and Eighth Grade Reading Teacher

Teaching Highlights:

- *Implemented evidence-based reading interventions for older students*
- *Developed and used daily vocabulary instruction to 8th grade students*

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District: 1999-2000

First Grade Teacher

Teaching Highlights:

- *Conducted home visits all parents to build relationships and provide home support for academics*
- *Collaborated with grade level teachers to provide consistent and evidence-based reading and writing instruction*

North Slope Borough School District: 1994-1999

First, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Teacher

Teaching Highlights:

- *Provided professional development to staff in evidence-based reading strategies*
- *Trained staff in villages around the district in the use of the adopted curriculum*
- *Scored six-trait writing at the district and state level*

Gaston School District: 1984-1994

First, Second, and Sixth Grade Teacher

Teaching Highlights:

- *Conducted student-led conferences*
- *Implemented six-trait writing*
- *Served as union president*

Scotts Mills School District: 1983-1984

Sixth Grade Teacher

Teaching Highlights:

- *Organized and directed the elementary school Christmas program*

References

[Redacted references]

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